



Delta Conveyance Project Tribal Engagement

Tribal engagement has been an important component of the Delta Conveyance Project planning process and will continue as the project progresses. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) demonstrated their early commitment to Tribal engagement by initiating outreach prior to the start of the environmental review process to identify Tribes that were interested in consulting under AB 52 but had not previously submitted a notice of their interest to consult with DWR. DWR began early engagement by hosting pre-AB 52 Tribal informational meetings for interested Tribes to develop an early understanding of the project before a Notice of Preparation was issued, formally initiating the environmental review process.

Consultation was conducted under AB 52 and DWR's Tribal Engagement Policy with additional outreach to Tribal communities through informational meetings, workshops, tours, letters and other methods. DWR remains committed to meaningful, productive and responsive engagement with Tribal Nations and communities while acknowledging their concerns and opposition to the project.

Inclusive and Dedicated Engagement

DWR has facilitated formal Tribal consultation including meetings with Tribal leaders and representatives with delegated authority to speak on behalf of Tribal leadership, provided email updates to consulting Tribes and hosted site visits and bus tours. DWR has also engaged in outreach to Tribal non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Tribal communities. Tribal outreach and engagement efforts are coordinated with DWR leadership and conducted by dedicated and knowledgeable staff assigned to conduct and support Tribal relations.



Tribal Outreach and Engagement Efforts Through Completion of the Environmental Review Process

(2019 - 2023)

- Sent Tribal consultation notification letters to 121 Tribes for consultation under AB 52 or DWR's Tribal Engagement Policy (13 Tribes consulted with DWR)
- Conducted over 150 Government-to-Government consultation meetings
- Conducted extensive outreach via phone, email and formal notification letters
- Conducted Environmental Justice Survey Tribal outreach
- Held Tribal-specific Community Benefits Program workshops
- Held Tribal-specific Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) meetings
- Hosted annual Tribal informational meetings
- Hosted Tribal tours
- Participated in Tribally hosted informational meetings
- Facilitated Tribal site visits

Tribal engagement led to significant project changes and informed preparation of the EIR, including:

- Identifying and evaluating alternatives
- Identifying and evaluating potential impacts on Tribal cultural resources
- Identifying the Delta Tribal Cultural Landscape including character-defining features and Tribal cultural values. The Tribal Cultural Resources section of the EIR incorporated Tribal perspectives and an acknowledgement of their opposition to the project.
- Identifying mitigation measures to avoid or reduce Tribal Cultural Resource impacts. Examples of mitigation measures include:
 - Tribal preconstruction surveys for all ground disturbing activities
 - Tribal monitoring of all ground-disturbing construction activities
 - Setting-aside land designated to reinter ancestral remains and associated burial items, cultural materials, and other items of cultural importance that may be at risk of disturbance. This land designation, including access rights, would be protected and preserved in perpetuity.
 - Tribal involvement in restoration planning efforts and access to designated spaces in the restored areas for cultural purposes in perpetuity



Moving Forward

Consultation under the Public Resources Code 21080.3.1 concluded prior to certification of the Final EIR in late 2023, and DWR is engaging in continued coordination under its Tribal Engagement Policy. DWR will continue coordination and engagement with Tribes throughout planning and implementation of the project as directed by state and federal laws, project-specific requirements, mitigation commitments and at the Tribes request. Successful implementation of mitigation measures proposed in the EIR is dependent on coordination with culturally affiliated Tribes. Examples of ongoing Tribal engagement activities include:

- Hosting quarterly informational meetings for coordinating Tribes* to provide project updates and discuss opportunities for Tribal participation in aspects of project construction and mitigation measure implementation
- Providing Tribes with the opportunity to review and comment on any mitigation planning documents
- Coordinating with Tribes regarding the long-term operations and maintenance of the Delta Conveyance Project
- Continued coordination under DWR's Tribal Engagement Policy and the California Natural Resources Agency Tribal Consultation Policy with interested Tribes

* Tribes that previously consulted on the Delta Conveyance Project as part of the California Environmental Quality Act process.

